

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 856

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge M. Keith Siskin of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of M. Keith Siskin, Circuit Court Judge of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District for Cannon and Rutherford counties; and

WHEREAS, appointed by Governor Haslam on October 29, 2012, and elected to a full term in 2014, Judge Siskin ruled with fairness and compassion from the bench and was a calming influence in family law cases; and

WHEREAS, Judge Siskin was noted among his colleagues as a dedicated public servant and outstanding trial judge who treated all parties appearing before his court with respect and sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, he was also renowned as a gifted legal writer who possessed a sharp intellect and a quick, yet dry, wit; and

WHEREAS, Judge Siskin was an innovator with regard to technology and utilized digital monitors to provide information about dockets and court rules and educate the public about the role of the judiciary, the judicial process, and legal history; and

WHEREAS, he was nominated for the prestigious Sandra Day O'Connor Award for the Advancement of Civics Education for his innovative use of technology in the Rutherford County Courthouse by the Administrative Office of the Courts; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the legal community, Judge Siskin had served as Presiding Judge of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (2014-2016) and president of the Rutherford/Cannon County Bar Association and was a member of the American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Judicial Conference, and Murfreesboro Downtown Barristers Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, prior to being appointed to the circuit court bench, he was a referee/magistrate for the Rutherford County Juvenile Court for eight years, presiding over both civil and criminal cases involving parentage, child support, child custody and visitation, dependency, neglect, abuse, and delinquency matters; and

WHEREAS, Keith Siskin was admitted as an Attorney and Counsellor of the Supreme Court of the United States of America in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Keith Siskin first came to Rutherford County to serve as a law clerk for the Chancery Court; he then worked at a Nashville firm before opening his own law practice in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, he earned his bachelor's degree in English from Vanderbilt University and graduated *cum laude* from the University of Georgia School of Law; while attending law school, he served as editor-in-chief of the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law*; and

WHEREAS, Judge Siskin was the author of "Does International Law Reflect International Opinion? French Nuclear Testing in the Twentieth Century" and a contributing author to *Great American Lawyers, An Encyclopedia*, and *Great American Judges, An Encyclopedia*; and

WHEREAS, a native of Savannah, Georgia, Keith Siskin was of the Jewish faith and attended the World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro with his family, to whom he was deeply devoted; and

WHEREAS, Judge Siskin is survived by his wife, Sheri; their daughters, Micah and Shae; his parents, Jim Siskin and Madeleine Varner; his stepmother, Dianne Siskin; his brother, Brad Siskin; his maternal grandmother, Sara Deich; and many other relatives, friends, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Judge Siskin was that rare individual who was equally gifted at administering the law and caring for people, and he leaves behind an enduring legacy of judicial service; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should remember this exceptional attorney, judge, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Judge M. Keith Siskin, celebrating his impeccable character and his many contributions to family law as a jurist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and many friends and colleagues of Judge Siskin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.